

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) A bezel for facilitating connection between an external device positioned on one side of a communication panel and a module located on an opposite side of the communication panel, the communication panel having an opening for receiving the bezel, the bezel comprising:

a housing, the housing defining an interior portion;

a first open end insertable into the module through the opening, wherein the first open end is positioned and configured to receive a first communication connection of the module for connection with the external device; and

a second open end having an openable cover,

wherein the second open end is configured to receive at least a second communication connection of the external device for connection with the first communication connection when the openable cover is open, without substantially disrupting operation of the module, and

wherein the interior portion is configured to house an optical coupler for connecting the first communication connection of the module to the second communication connection of the external device.

19. (Previously Presented) The bezel according to Claim 18, wherein the optical coupler comprises an SC optical coupler.

20. (Previously Presented) The bezel according to Claim 18, wherein the housing is positioned at an angle relative to the communication panel when the first open end is inserted into the module.

21. (Previously Presented) The bezel according to Claim 18, wherein the housing includes a side having an edge for engagement of at least an edge of the optical coupler.

22. (Previously Presented) A method for optically coupling an optical attenuator to a communication module disposed on an internal side of a panel, comprising the steps of:

optically coupling an optical coupler to the communication module through an opening in the panel that provides access from an external side of the panel to the communication module; and

optically connecting an end of the optical attenuator to the optical coupler, to thereby optically couple the optical attenuator to the communication module through the optical coupler.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

positioning at least a portion of the optical coupler within a housing of a mechanical bezel; and

attaching the mechanical bezel to the communication module through the opening in the panel, thereby optically coupling the optical coupler and the communication module.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the optical coupler is a SC coupler.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, further comprising the step of connecting an external optical connector to another, opposite end of the optical attenuator.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the optical attenuator is disposed, at least initially, on an external side of the panel opposite to the internal side of the panel.

27. (Currently Amended) A mechanical bezel, comprising:

a first, housing portion having an inner channel extending in a direction of a line connecting first and second open ends of the first, housing portion; and

a second portion extending from the first open end of the first, housing portion, and being adapted to couple the mechanical bezel to a communication module disposed on an internal side of ~~[[the]]~~ a panel, without fixedly securing to the panel itself, so that the first open end is closer to the communication module than the second open end when at least a portion of the mechanical bezel is inserted at least partially through ~~[[the]]~~ an opening of the panel.

28. (Previously Presented) The mechanical bezel according to Claim 27, further comprising a cover disposed at the second open end of the first, housing portion, the cover being adjustable for being placed in either a closed position to cover the second open end, or an opened position in which at least part of the second open end is not covered by the cover.

29. (Previously Presented) The mechanical bezel according to Claim 27, wherein the mechanical bezel is disposed at an angle relative to the panel when the second portion is coupled to the communication module.

30. (Previously Presented) The mechanical bezel according to Claim 29, wherein the second open end is disposed in a lower orientation than is the first open end when the second portion is coupled to the communication module.

31. (Previously Presented) The mechanical bezel according to Claim 27, wherein the inner channel is configured to receive at least a portion of an optical coupler.

32. (Previously Presented) The mechanical bezel according to Claim 31, wherein the inner channel is configured to permit the optical coupler to be optically connected to the communication module when the optical coupler is received by the inner channel.

33. (Previously Presented) The mechanical bezel according to Claim 31, wherein the inner channel is also configured to receive an optical attenuator and to permit the optical attenuator to be optically coupled to the communication module through the optical coupler.

34. (Previously Presented) The mechanical bezel according to Claim 27, wherein the mechanical bezel is configured to couple to the communication module without substantially disrupting operation of the communication module.

35. (Previously Presented) The mechanical bezel according to Claim 27, wherein the mechanical bezel is configured to couple to the communication module without placing the communication module out of service.

36. (Previously Presented) The mechanical bezel according to Claim 27, wherein the inner channel is configured to receive an optical attenuator and to permit the optical attenuator to be optically coupled to the communication module.

37. (Previously Presented) The mechanical bezel according to Claim 31, wherein the optical coupler is a SC coupler.

38. (Previously Presented) The mechanical bezel according to Claim 33, wherein the inner channel is configured to permit an external optical connector to be connected to an end of the optical attenuator opposite to an end of the optical attenuator to which the communication module is optically coupled.

39. (Previously Presented) The bezel according to Claim 18, wherein the interior portion is configured to permit entry of the optical coupler through the first open end.

40. (Previously Presented) The bezel according to Claim 18, wherein the first open end includes a plurality of projecting members insertable into the module, each

projecting member including an end having an inclined portion ending in a shoulder portion, the inclined portion and the shoulder portion forming at least a portion of a cam surface.

41. (Previously Presented) The bezel according to claim 40, wherein at least part of the cam surface substantially locks the housing to the module, thereby maintaining at least a portion of the optical coupler in a position within the interior of the housing.

42. (Previously Presented) The bezel according to Claim 18, wherein the housing includes a longitudinally extending open portion configured to permit a tab of the optical coupler to pass therethrough beyond the exterior of the housing, and wherein the housing includes an edge defining an end of the longitudinally extending open portion and engageable with the tab of the optical coupler when the optical coupler is inserted through the first open end.

43. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 23,  
wherein the positioning step positions the optical coupler within [[a]] the  
housing of the mechanical bezel through a first end of the housing, and  
wherein the optically connecting step ~~of optically connecting an end of the~~  
~~optical attenuator to the optical coupler~~ connects an end of the optical attenuator to the  
optical coupler at or through a second end of the housing, opposite from the first end.

44. (Previously Presented) The mechanical bezel according to Claim 27,

wherein the first, housing portion comprises two opposed side walls,  
wherein an interior portion of each side wall comprises a guiding member, and  
wherein the guiding members form the inner channel.